

News Release



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Campground Closing

New Brighton Renovation Begins on Monday

CAPITOLA – A 10-month renovation project for New Brighton State Beach that will expand camping facilities and improve beach access will begin Monday, requiring closure of the campground and other areas, California State Parks officials announced today.

State Parks will do everything possible to allow beach access during the construction. New Brighton's lower day use lot will remain open unless there are temporary closures or delays due to construction of the new entrance station. In addition, limited enroute camping in the day use lot will be permitted as the project allows.

The popular state park, located just off Highway 1 and south of Santa Cruz, will be closed effective Monday, June 16, while the much-needed rehabilitation takes place. It is expected to reopen in the spring of 2004.

"This important work is long overdue. New Brighton State Beach has not had such a major facelift since the facilities were first constructed in the mid-1940's," said Santa Cruz District Superintendent Dave Vincent.

Vincent said that while camping will not take place this summer, visitors will be able to enjoy a new and improved campground and other amenities when the \$2.5 million project is completed.

The work will include an improved entrance area, the removal or renovation of worn out facilities, the construction of 11 additional campsites with water and electrical service for recreational vehicles, and conversion of an existing residence into a visitor center.

In addition, a second sanitary dump station will be placed next to the existing one to alleviate long waits that occur at busy times. Accessibility issues also will be addressed in several campsites and at the restroom facilities. The project includes a major improvement of the existing beach access trail and stairway.

The beach is in the town of Capitola, just south of the popular beach resort of Santa Cruz. The New Brighton beach features picnic areas, swimming, fishing and a nearby forest of Monterey pine and Coastal Live Oak. The camping area is on a bluff overlooking northern Monterey Bay.

Visitors may want to take advantage of other campgrounds in the Santa Cruz area while the construction is underway at New Brighton. They include: Sunset State Beach, Manresa State Beach, Seacliff State Beach, Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park, and Big Basin Redwoods State Park.

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